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CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS OF THE NATION'S WORKING MOTHERS, 1965, A PRELIMINARY REPORT.

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PUB DATE 65

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.25 HC-$0.76 17P.

DESCRIPTORS- *MOTHERS, *WORKING WOMEN, *CHILD CARE, NATIONAL SURVEYS, FAMILY INCOME,

THE BUREAU OF CENSUS, USING ITS NATIONAL SAMPLE OF HOUSEHOLDS, SURVEYED CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS OF MOTHERS WHO HAD WORKED 27 WEEKS OR MORE DURING 1964 AND HAD AT LEAST ONE CHILD UNDER 14 YEARS OLD LIVING AT HOME. ONE-EIGHTH OF THE NATIONAL WORK FORCE WAS COMPOSED OF WORKING MOTHERS WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18. ONE-THIRD OF THE MOTHERS WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18 AND ONE-FOURTH WITH CHILDREN UNDER 6 WORKED. IN THE 1970'S, A 43 PERCENT RISE IN NUMBER OF WORKING MOTHERS OF PRESCHOOL CHILDREN IS EXPECTED. THE 6.1 MILLION WORKING MOTHERS HAD 12.3 MILLION CHILDREN UNDER 14, ONE-FIFTH OF ALL AMERICAN CHILDREN IN THIS AGE GROUP. THESE EMPLOYED MOTHERS, 86 PERCENT WORKING FOR ECONOMIC AND 14 PERCENT FOR NONECONOMIC REASONS, REPORTED THEIR CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS -- (1) 46 PERCENT WERE CARED FOR IN THEIR OWN HOMES, 15 PERCENT BY THE FATHER, 21 PERCENT BY ANOTHER RELATIVE, AND 10 PERCENT BY A NONRELATIVE, (2) 15 PERCENT WERE CARED FOR IN SOMEONE ELSE'S HOME, (3) 2 PERCENT WERE IN GROUP CARE IN DAY CARE CENTERS OR SIMILAR FACILITIES, (4) 8 PERCENT CARED FOR THEMSELVES, (5) 13 PERCENT WERE CARED FOR BY THEIR OWN MOTHERS AS THEY WORKED, AND (6) 15 PERCENT HAD MOTHERS WHO WORKED ONLY DURING SCHOOL HOURS. FAMILY INCOME WAS CORRELATED WITH CHILD CARE PRACTICES IN THAT IN LOWER INCOME GROUPS, MORE CHILDREN WERE CARED FOR BY RELATIVES, MORE WERE EXPECTED TO CARE FOR THEMSELVES, AND MORE MOTHERS CARED FOR THEIR OWN CHILD AS THEY WORKED. FAMILY DAY CARE OR GROUP CARE ARRANGEMENTS DID NOT SEEM TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH FAMILY INCOME. HOURS OF CHILD CARE PER WEEK VARIED FROM LESS THAN 10 TO 50 OR MORE. COST PER WEEK VARIED FROM LESS THAN $5 TO $15 OR MORE. (FP)

ED015272

# CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS of the NATION'S WORKING MOTHERS

## a preliminary report

1965

reprinted 1966

VT003620

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
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# CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS OF THE NATION'S WORKING MOTHERS, 1965

## a preliminary report

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
WELFARE ADMINISTRATION
Children's Bureau

and

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Women's Bureau

1965

# CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS OF THE NATION'S WORKING MOTHERS, 1965 1/

## Background

One out of every eight individuals in the nation's labor force is a working mother with children under 18 years of age. One out of every three mothers with children under 18 is in the labor force. The number of working mothers exceeds 9.5 million and has doubled since 1950.

The situation is similar if we consider only employment of mothers of preschool age children. One out of every four mothers with children under 6 is in the labor force. The number of such mothers has also doubled since 1950 and is now at 3.6 million.

No reversal is in prospect of these deeply significant trends toward employment of mothers. The Department of Labor, for example, has recently projected a rise of 43 percent during the decade of the 1970's in the number of working mothers of preschool age children.

In light of these recent and prospective developments, the arrangements working mothers make for child care have come increasingly to the forefront of public attention. It could not be otherwise. Anyone who has observed the gulf that divides the very good arrangements and the very bad will appreciate how deeply affected a child's life may be by the kind of care he receives -- especially a child whose mother works full time.

To ascertain the basic dimensions of the current situation, the Children's Bureau and the Women's Bureau have cosponsored a new national survey of child care arrangements of working mothers. 2/ The

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1/ Prepared by Clay Brittain and Seth Low, Division of Research, Children's Bureau. Mrs. Pearl G. Spindler, Division of Economic Status and Opportunities, Women's Bureau, assisted in planning the survey.

2/ This study was partially supported under the research program of the Office of Manpower, Automation and Training, Manpower Administration, U.S. Department of Labor.

Children's Bureau previously had sponsored such a survey in 1958. The Bureau of the Census conducted the new survey for the sponsoring Bureaus in February 1965, using its national sample of households throughout the country.

This preliminary report of the early findings has been especially prepared for the National Conference on Day Care Services. Complete tabulations will not become available from the Bureau of the Census until early summer. It will then take some time to prepare the final report.

## The survey's coverage

The survey included women who worked 27 weeks or more in 1964, either full or part time, and who had at least one child under 14 years of age living at home. This age was selected because concern about child care arrangements is greatest for children under 14. Mothers who had worked at least one-half year during 1964 were selected because there can be no doubt that these women are genuine participants in the labor force, not occasional workers.

## Results

Preliminary statistics are presented in Tables 1 to 8. A brief summary of results to date follows.

### Number of working mothers and their children

There were 6.1 million mothers who worked 27 weeks or more in 1964, either full or part time, and who had at least one child under 14. These mothers had a total of 12.3 million children under 14, one-fifth of all U. S. children in this age group.

### Reasons for working

Mothers were asked to give their main reasons for working. These reasons were classified as "economic" for 86 percent of the mothers, and "noneconomic" for 14 percent. Economic reasons ranged from sheer need to earn a living to particular needs such as to buy a home, pay for medical care or for a child's education, and so on. Noneconomic reasons included reasons such as "like to work," the mother's desire to use her education and skills, or her dislike of being at home and her preference to associate with other adults.

## Age of children

The children included 3.8 million who were under 6 years of age (of whom 1.6 million were under 3), 6.1 million who were 6 through 11, and 2.4 million who were 12 or 13. The proportion of children whose mothers work varies directly with the age of the children. Children under 3 in the survey comprised 13 percent of all U. S. children in that age group; those 3 to 5, 18 percent; those 6 to 11, 26 percent; and those 12 or 13, 33 percent.

## Family income

This includes the income of the working mother and any other family income. Children of worki g mothers come from families ranging widely in income. Nearly 2 million children in the survey were in families with incomes under $3,000, almost 4 million in families with $3-5,999 incomes, 4.5 million in $6-9,999 income families and another 2 million in families with incomes over $10,000.

## Child care arrangements

Mothers who were currently employed were asked to report their usual arrangements during the month immediately preceding the survey; other mothers were asked to report the arrangements in effect during their most recent month of employment.

Almost one-half of the children (46 percent) were cared for in their own homes, usually by a father (15 percent) or by another relative (21 percent) and less frequently by a nonrelative (10 percent). For 5 percent the relative caring for children at home was a child under 16 years of age.

Care in someone else's home (15 percent) was reported much less frequently than care in own home and was equally divided between care by a relative and by a nonrelative. Children cared for by a nonrelative in a home other than their own are in "family day care" as this term is usually defined. These children constituted 8 percent of all children in the survey, but 15 percent of those under 6 years of age, 6 percent of those 6 to 11, and 2 percent of those 12 or 13.

Group care (in day care centers, after school centers, etc.) was reported for 2 percent of the children but this type of arrangement also varied by age, being 4 percent for children under 3, 7 percent for children 3 to 5, and 1 percent or less for children 6 years of age or older.

By adding together the children in family day care and group care, a total count may be had of children in the survey who were in "day care" as this term is usually defined. These totals are as follows for the various age groups:

| | Percent of age group in family day care | Percent of age group in group care | Percent of age group in family or group day care |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total..... | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| Under 3..... | 16 | 4 | 20 |
| 3-5..... | 15 | 7 | 22 |
| 6-11..... | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| 12 or 13..... | 2 | * | 2 |

* Less than one-half of one percent.

A potentially vulnerable group are the children who are expected to look after themselves while their mothers work. Eight percent of the children in the survey were expected to care for themselves, an arrangement that varied by age, amounting to 1 percent for the children under 6, 8 percent for those 6 to 11, and 20 percent for children 12 or 13 years of age.

A sizeable number of children (13 percent) were looked after by their own mothers while they worked. Another sizeable group (15 percent) had mothers who worked only during school hours and presumably needed no special arrangements for child care.

## Child care arrangements and family income

The relative extent of use of the several types of child care arrangements varies according to family income:

Child care by the father occurs least frequently among children in the lowest income families (under $3,000), no doubt, at least in part, because many of these families are fatherless and dependent entirely upon the income of the working mother.

The lower the family income, the more frequently is care provided by a relative (other than the father), whether in or out of the child's own home.

As expected, the use of maids or housekeepers, who do household work in addition to caring for children, occurs most frequently in families with higher incomes, especially above $10,000.

The extent to which children are expected to care for themselves while their mothers work appears to be somewhat greater among the lowest income families. Ten percent of the children in families with incomes under $3,000, as compared with 7 percent in families with incomes above $6,000, were expected to look after themselves.

Arrangements in which the mother herself cares for the child while she is working are clearly associated with family income, occurring most frequently among children in families with incomes under $3,000 (20 percent of these children).

On the other hand, arrangements in which the mother works only during school hours are most frequent among children in the highest income families (20 percent of the children in families with incomes above $10,000).

It is noteworthy that day care arrangements (family day care or group care) do <u>not</u> seem to be associated with family income, apparently occurring as frequently at all levels of family income.

<u>Supplementary arrangements</u>

Only one child care arrangement was reported for most children of working mothers. For a substantial number, however, supplementary arrangements were necessary when the primary arrangement did not cover all of the time the mother was away at work. Such additional arrangements were made for 1 child in 7 in the survey, excluding children whose mothers looked after them while working or worked only during their school hours.

Supplementary arrangements were predominantly arrangements for care in the child's own home (77 percent of the children for whom additional arrangements were reported), and mostly by the father (51 percent) or another relative (21 percent). Six percent of these children were expected to look after themselves.

Seven percent were provided day care (5 percent family day care and 2 percent group care).

## Hours of child care per week

Since mothers who worked full time and those who worked part time, as well as school age children, were included in the survey, the number of hours of child care provided (including self-care by children) varied. The number was under 20 hours for more than half of the children (56 percent), including 28 percent for whom the number was under 10 hours. On the other hand, the number of hours was 40 or more for one-fourth of the children (26 percent), including 4 percent for whom the number was 50 or more. These figures exclude hours of care in supplementary arrangements. They also exclude children who were looked after by their mothers while working and children whose mothers worked only during school hours.

## Amount paid for child care

The question whether mothers paid for child care was asked only in respect to arrangements for which it was considered relevant, but all supplementary arrangements were excluded. Some payment was made for 3 out of 4 children concerning whom the question was asked. The amount varied, of course, depending upon the number of hours care provided and other factors. It was less than $10 a week per child for two-thirds of the children for whom some payment was made, including 28 percent for whom it was less than $5. The amount was $15 or more for 10 percent of the children. These amounts do not include transportation or other special costs associated with child care.

## Note concerning the statistical tables

All statistics are preliminary and subject to revision. The tables relate to the population of working mothers and their children covered in the survey, as explained above. Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

Table 1. NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER 14 YEARS OF AGE OF WORKING MOTHERS, BY AGE OF CHILDREN, UNITED STATES, 1965

| Age | Number of children | Percent distribution |
|---|---|---|
| Total children under 14.. | 12,291,000 | 100 |
| Under 6 years..... | 3,778,000 | 31 |
| Under 3..... | 1,580,000 | 13 |
| 3-5..... | 2,198,000 | 18 |
| 6-11 years..... | 6,100,000 | 50 |
| 6-8..... | 2,796,000 | 23 |
| 9-11..... | 3,304,000 | 27 |
| 12 and 13 years..... | 2,413,000 | 20 |

Table 2. NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER 14 YEARS OF AGE OF WORKING MOTHERS, BY FAMILY INCOME IN 1964, UNITED STATES 1/

| Family income | Number of children | Percent distribution |
|---|---|---|
| | | Percent distribution |
| Total children..... | 12,291,000 | 100 |
| Less than $3,000..... | 1,957,000 | 16 |
| $3,000-$5,999..... | 3,797,000 | 31 |
| $6,000-$9,999..... | 4,465,000 | 36 |
| $10,000 and over..... | 2,072,000 | 17 |

1/ Covers all family income, including that of the working mother.

**Table 3. CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHILDREN OF WORKING MOTHERS, BY AGE OF CHILDREN, UNITED STATES, 1965**

Percent distribution

| Type of arrangement | Percent distribution | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Total | Under 6 years | 6-11 years | 12 or 13 years |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Care in child's own home by-- | 46 | 47 | 47 | 38 |
| Father | 15 | 15 | 15 | 14 |
| Other relative | 21 | 18 | 23 | 21 |
| Under 16 years | 5 | 2 | 6 | 5 |
| 16-64 years | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 |
| 65 years and over | 4 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| Nonrelative who only looked after children | 5 | 8 | 4 | 2 |
| Nonrelative who did additional household chores (maid, housekeeper, etc.) | 5 | 7 | 4 | 2 |
| Care in someone else's home by-- | 15 | 30 | 11 | 5 |
| Relative | 8 | 15 | 5 | 3 |
| Nonrelative | 8 | 15 | 6 | 2 |
| Other arrangements | 39 | 23 | 43 | 57 |
| Group care (day care center, etc.) | 2 | 6 | 1 | 1/ |
| Child looked after self | 8 | 1 | 8 | 20 |
| Mother looked after child while working | 13 | 15 | 12 | 11 |
| Mother worked only during child's school hours | 15 | 1 | 21 | 24 |
| Other arrangements | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

1/ Less than one-half of one percent.

Table 4. CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHILDREN UNDER SIX YEARS OF AGE OF WORKING MOTHERS, BY AGE OF CHILDREN, UNITED STATES, 1965

Percent distribution

| Type of arrangement | Percent distribution | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Total Under 6 years | Under 3 years | 3-5 years |
| Total | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Care in child's own home by-- | 47 | 46 | 48 |
| Father | 14 | 14 | 15 |
| Other relative | 18 | 17 | 19 |
| Under 16 years | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| 16-64 years | 13 | 13 | 13 |
| 65 years and over | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Nonrelative who only looked after children | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| Nonrelative who did additional household chores (maid, housekeeper, etc.) | 7 | 7 | 6 |
| Care in someone else's home by-- | 30 | 33 | 27 |
| Relative | 15 | 17 | 12 |
| Nonrelative | 15 | 16 | 15 |
| Other arrangements | 23 | 21 | 25 |
| Group care (day care center, etc.) | 6 | 4 | 7 |
| Child looked after self | 1 | 1/ | 1/ |
| Mother looked after child while working | 15 | 15 | 16 |
| Mother worked only during child's school hours | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Other arrangements | 1 | 2 | 0 |

1/ Less than one-half of one percent.

Table 5. CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHILDREN OF WORKING MOTHERS, BY FAMILY INCOME, UNITED STATES, 1965

Percent distribution

| Type of arrangement | Total | Family income | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Less than $3,000 | $3,000-5,999 | $6,000-9,999 | $10,000 and over |
| Total (percent) | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Care in child's own home by-- | 46 | 39 | 43 | 50 | 46 |
| Father | 15 | 7 | 15 | 19 | 13 |
| Other relative | 21 | 27 | 21 | 19 | 18 |
| Under 16 years | 5 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 3 |
| 16-64 years | 13 | 20 | 13 | 11 | 11 |
| 65 years and over | 4 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| Nonrelative who only looked after children | 5 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 5 |
| Nonrelative who did additional household chores (maid, housekeeper, etc.) | 5 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 10 |
| Care in someone else's home by- | 15 | 17 | 19 | 14 | 12 |
| Relative | 8 | 9 | 9 | 7 | 5 |
| Nonrelative | 8 | 8 | 10 | 7 | 8 |
| Other arrangements | 39 | 44 | 39 | 36 | 42 |
| Group care (day care center, etc.) | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Child looked after self | 8 | 10 | 8 | 7 | 7 |
| Mother looked after child while working | 13 | 20 | 15 | 10 | 12 |
| Mother worked only during child's school hours | 15 | 11 | 14 | 17 | 20 |
| Other arrangements | 1 | 1/ | 1/ | 1 | 1 |

1/ Less than one-half of one percent.

Table 6. SUPPLEMENTARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR CARE OF CHILDREN OF WORKING MOTHERS, UNITED STATES, 1965 1/

| Type of arrangement | Percent distribution |
|---|---|
| | Percent distribution |
| Total | 100 |
| Care in child's own home by-- | 77 |
| Father | 51 |
| Other relative | 21 |
| Nonrelative who only looked after children | 3 |
| Nonrelative who did additional household chores (maid, housekeeper, etc.) | 1 |
| Care in someone else's home by-- | 11 |
| Relative | 6 |
| Nonrelative | 5 |
| Other arrangements | 12 |
| Group care (day care center, etc.) | 2 |
| Child looked after self | 6 |
| Mother looked after child while working | 2 |
| Other arrangements | 2 |

1/ Supplementary arrangements are additional child care arrangements that were reported in cases when the primary arrangement did not cover all of the time the mother was away at work. Such arrangements were reported for approximately 1 out of 7 children in the survey, excluding children whose mothers looked after them while working or worked only during their school hours.

Table 7. NUMBER OF HOURS CARE PER WEEK FOR CHILDREN WHILE MOTHERS WERE WORKING, UNITED STATES, 1965 1/

Percent distribution

| Number of hours | Percent distribution |
|---|---|
| Total children..... | 100 |
| Less than 10 hours..... | 28 |
| 10-19 hours..... | 28 |
| 20-29 hours..... | 11 |
| 30-39 hours..... | 8 |
| 40-49 hours..... | 22 |
| 50 hours or more..... | 4 |

1/ Excludes children who were looked after by mother while working and children whose mother worked only during child's school hours. Also excludes hours care in supplementary arrangements for children who were cared for under more than one arrangement.

Table 8. AMOUNT PAID PER CHILD PER WEEK BY WORKING MOTHERS FOR CHILD CARE, UNITED STATES, 1965 1/

Percent distribution

| Weekly payment per child | Percent distribution |
|---|---|
| Total children..... | 100 |
| Less than $5.00..... | 28 |
| $5.00-$9.99..... | 38 |
| $10.00-$14.99..... | 24 |
| $15.00-$19.99..... | 6 |
| $20.00 or more..... | 4 |

1/ The question concerning payment for child care was not asked if a child was cared for in his own home by father or other relative; if a child cared for himself; if a mother looked after child while working; or if a mother worked only during child's school hours. The question was asked in all other cases. Payment for child care was made in 74 percent of the cases in which the question was asked. No payment was made in the remaining 26 percent. This table presents the amounts paid for the cases in which payments were made and the amount of the payment reported.